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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 26, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTIONAL COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is primary day in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast States, the so-called Acela Primary, the five States all served by Amtrak.

Fortunately, we are going to get a break, briefly, from a primary season that is truly cringe-worthy.

But for hundreds of people who were privileged to watch high school students from across America participate in the We the People constitutional competition, there is hope.

These teenage scholars, most not old enough to vote or to drive, compete in a contest demonstrating their knowledge of the Constitution and democratic principles as well as their ability to think on their feet.

At a time when civics education doesn't appear to be a priority for most of American education, this shows the appetite and the capacity to fill that gap.

I have more than a little hometown pride in this undertaking. The Classroom Law Project has been a priority of my family for years and continues to be so.

For the last 4 years, two public high schools in Portland, Oregon, have alternated the National Championship, with Lincoln High School finishing first in 2012 and 2014 and Grant High School in Portland winning the national trophy in 2013 and 2015.

This year Oregon was able to send both teams to the national finals, and the pattern continued, as Lincoln won its third trophy in 5 years and Grant, given an opportunity to compete, finished third, an unprecedented accomplishment for one town's high schools.

This amazing success speaks to the dedication of the young scholars and the amazing support of their families that was evident in the competition, the finals of which were held here in our Nation's Capital.

Both teams have a core of volunteer coaches who are lawyers and judges, citizens who focus on these kids and civics. They care deeply.

Having watched one of these young scholars several years ago in our household, I can testify to the intensity, the depth, and the passion for the Constitution and for our government.

Time doesn't permit me to recognize all these outstanding young people and

their mentors, the team that brought them here, but I must acknowledge the presence and advocacy of Peyton Chapman, the principal of Lincoln High School, their main coach, Steve Griffith, representative of all these amazing adults who invest so much in the young people, and Instructor George Ten Eyck, because all of these programs rely on a dedicated professional in the classroom to make it happen.

I had an opportunity on the floor of the House to meet with both of these teams late last week. Listening to their comments and questions, I celebrated their insights and hard work, their commitment, even as I wish we could have all of them on the floor of this House to elevate the discussion and deliberation, and I think they would add, frankly, to the decision-making.

But until their time will come—and it can't come soon enough—in the meantime, we celebrate five consecutive National Championships for two public high schools in Portland, Oregon.

Congratulations, Lincoln Cardinals, on your championship, and Grant High School, finishing third. Together, you have dominated this elite competition for 5 consecutive years.

Congratulations.

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, many people have unneeded or expired medications in their medicine cabinets. It can be hard to know how to dispose of these medications properly.

On Saturday, April 30, we have an opportunity to safely dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications. Saturday is National

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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